

What Is Claimed Is:

1 1. A communications system comprising:
 2 a first teleport station;
 3 a first user;
 4 a satellite coupling the first teleport station to the first user; and
 5 a network access point coupled to the Internet and the first
 6 teleport station, said network access point coupled to the first teleport station
 7 through an optical fiber.

1 2. A communications system as recited in claim 1, wherein
 2 said satellite comprises a satellite in the Ka band.

1 3. A communications system as recited in claim 1, further
 2 comprising a second teleport station coupled to the first teleport station through
 3 said satellite.

1 4. A communications system comprising:
 2 a satellite;
 3 a first teleport station;
 4 a second teleport station coupled to the second teleport station
 5 through said optical fiber network and said satellite;
 6 an optical fiber network providing a primary communication link
 7 until an irregularity is detected in said optical fiber, whereupon the sensing of
 8 the irregularity, routing the communication from said first teleport station to
 9 said second teleport station through said satellite.

1 5. A method of communicating between a first user and a
 2 first geographic region served by a first satellite and a second user in a second
 3 geographic region served by a second satellite comprises the steps of:

4 directing a communication from a first user to the first satellite;

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5 routing the communication from the first satellite to a first
6 teleport station;

7 routing the communication from the first teleport station to a
8 second teleport station in the second geographic region by way of an optical
9 fiber network;

10 routing the communication from the second teleport station to a
11 user in the second geographic region.

1 6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the step of
2 routing communication from the second teleport station comprises directing the
3 communication from the second teleport station to the second user by way of an
4 optical fiber.

1 7. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the step of
2 routing communication from the second teleport station comprises directing the
3 communication from the second teleport station to the second user by way of
4 the second satellite.

1 8. A method as recited in claim 5, further comprising the
2 step of coupling the first teleport station to the Internet.

1 9. A method of operating a communications system
2 comprising the steps of:

3 generating a plurality of spot beams directed to a respective
4 plurality of teleport stations from a satellite;

5 interconnecting the plurality of teleport stations with an optical
6 communication network;

7 in normal operating conditions, directing a communication from
8 a first said plurality of teleport stations through satellite to a first user;

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9 when the second teleport station is encumbered, directing the
10 communication through an optical link.

1 10. A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising the
2 step of connecting the optical communication network to the Internet.

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